

Barry-FVZ



**Department of Energy**  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

**AUG 17 2000**

Professor Basil V. Worgul  
Director, Eye Radiation and Environmental  
Research Laboratory  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Columbia University  
630 West 168th Street  
New York, New York 10032

Dear Professor Worgul:

As you are aware, our office has been carefully reviewing the progress of the cataract study, especially the worker dosimetry. This review began in May following receipt of the semi-annual progress report from the project dosimetrist, Dr. Vadim Chumak. Because of the questions surrounding the progress report, it seemed prudent to ask Dr. Chumak to prepare an Interim Report on Cataract Dosimetry. We conducted an internal review of the Interim Report. This led to a series of followup questions and responses and culminated in a conference call with you, Dr. Chumak, Dr. Yuri Kundiev, and Dr. Peter Vitte on August 1, 2000. You requested and we granted you until September 30, 2000, to respond to our questions.

As the study will enter its sixth and final year on October 1, 2000, we believe that the cataract study could greatly benefit from an external review focusing on worker dosimetry. To that end, I am in the process of assembling a group of ad hoc reviewers whose charge will be to evaluate the work accomplished to date and recommend a course of action for the study's last year. I plan to conduct the review after receipt of your response to our questions. Upon review of the reviewers' comments, we will make a decision about how to restructure the work.

We plan to issue a 3-month, no-cost extension during the first quarter of fiscal year 2001 in order that we may conduct the ad hoc review and restructure the study. Although your work plan for fiscal year 2001 seemed like a good one, we decided, in light of all the questions concerning

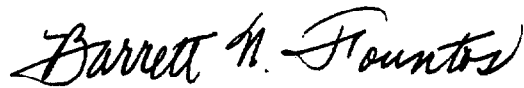


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uncertainty surrounding worker dosimetry, that it is prudent to have you prepare a new annual work plan and budget once we decide how to restructure the work.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on (301) 903-6740.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barrett N. Fountos".

Barrett N. Fountos  
Program Manager  
Office of Health Studies

cc: Richard Sohn, Columbia University  
Rick Updegrove, EH-71/DOE